

Appln No. 10/679,820
Amdt date November 2, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 20, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 1 further comprising for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct;

a dam extending into air flow through the duct for directing water flowing on an air inlet duct wall toward the drain; and

means for lowering pressure in the drain to a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 3 for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct;

a dam extending into air flow through the duct for directing water toward the drain, wherein the dam comprises a strip with a perforated tube in the strip; and

means for lowering pressure in the drain to a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain.

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5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the dam comprises a strip extending diagonally across air flow through the duct and wherein a drain is near the downstream end of the strip.

6. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 1 wherein the~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain [[is]] on a non-horizontal wall portion above the bottom of the air duct connecting to the inside of the duct; and

means for lowering pressure in the drain to a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain, and further comprising a dam extending into air flow through the duct for directing water toward the drain.

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 6 for removing water from~~ compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct, wherein the dam comprises a strip with a perforated tube in the strip; and

means for lowering pressure in the drain to a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the dam comprises a strip extending diagonally across the duct and wherein a drain is near the lower end of the strip.

9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct, wherein the drain is located on a compressor inlet cone within the inlet air duct; and

means for lowering pressure in the drain to a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain.

11. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the drain comprises a dam around at least a portion of the cone and a perforated tube adjacent to the dam.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the drain comprises a hollow cone and a perforated or porous surface on the cone.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 13 further~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct;

a dam extending into air flow through the duct and a perforated tube in the [[strip]] dam; and

a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.

15. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 13~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

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a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct, wherein the drain comprises a perforated tube extending across a face of the duct; and

a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.

16. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 15 further comprising a dam diverting water to the [[drain]] perforated tube.

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 15~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct, wherein the drain comprises a perforated strut in the duct; and

a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.

18. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 10~~ for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:

a compressor;

an air inlet duct to the compressor;

a drain connecting to the inside of the duct, wherein the drain is on a non-horizontal wall portion of the air duct; ~~and further comprising~~

a dam extending into air flow through the duct for directing water toward the drain; and
a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.

19. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the dam comprises a strip with a perforated tube in the strip.

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20. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the dam comprises a strip extending diagonally across the duct and wherein a drain is near the lower end of the strip.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 13 wherein the drain is located for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~
~~a compressor;~~
~~an air inlet duct to the compressor;~~
~~a drain connecting to the inside of the duct on a compressor inlet cone within the duct;~~
~~and~~
~~a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.~~

23. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim [[13]] 22 wherein the drain comprises a dam around at least a portion of the compressor inlet cone and a perforated tube adjacent to the dam.

24. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim [[13]] 22 wherein the drain comprises a hollow cone and a perforated or porous surface on the cone.

25. (Currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 13 further for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~
~~a compressor;~~
~~an air inlet duct to the compressor;~~
~~an inlet cone for the compressor within the air inlet duct;~~
~~a drain connecting to the inside of the duct and wherein the drain is on a surface of the inlet cone; and~~

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a suction device for air and/or water connected to the drain.

26. (Original) Apparatus according the claim 25 wherein the inlet cone is hollow and the drain comprises a porous or perforated surface on the inlet cone.

27. (Original) Apparatus for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:
a compressor;
hollow inlet air guide vanes for the compressor, wherein the guide vanes have a perforated or porous surface; and
a suction device for water and/or air connected to the hollow interior of the guide vanes.

28. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 27 wherein only a downstream portion of at least one of such [[a]] guide [[vane]] vanes is porous or perforated.

29. (Currently amended) Apparatus for removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:
a compressor;
an air inlet duct to the compressor;
a hollow inlet cone for the compressor within the air inlet duct, wherein the inlet cone has a perforated or porous surface; and
a suction device for water and/or air connected to the hollow interior of the inlet cone.

30. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 29 wherein only a downstream portion of the inlet cone is porous or perforated.

31. (Currently amended) A method of removing water from a compressor inlet air duct comprising:

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diverting water [[on]] flowing along a wall in the general direction of air flow inside the duct to a drain; and

sucking water from the drain with a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the drain.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the drain is on a floor of the duct and further comprising shielding at least a portion of the floor of the duct with a perforated sheet or screen.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein diverting comprises placing a dam across a portion of the air flow through the duct and adjacent to the drain.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33 comprising sucking water from along at least a portion of the length of the dam.

35. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 31 of removing water from a compressor inlet air duct~~ comprising:

sucking water through a perforated tube inside the duct; and
sucking water from the tube with a pressure less than air pressure in the duct adjacent to the tube.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 36 of removing water from a compressor inlet air~~ comprising:

sucking water from a hollow strut upstream from the compressor with a pressure less than air pressure adjacent to the suction inlet.

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38. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 36 of removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~

sucking water from a hollow compressor inlet cone within an inlet air duct upstream from the compressor with a pressure less than air pressure adjacent to the suction inlet.

39. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 36 of removing water from compressor inlet air comprising:~~

sucking water from a hollow inlet guide vane upstream from the compressor with a pressure less than air pressure adjacent to the suction inlet.